Draft
Environmental Assessment

Logan State Park
Campground Improvement Project

August 2015

MONTANA
STATE PARKS
stateparks.mt.gov

Draft Environmental Assessment
CHECKLIST

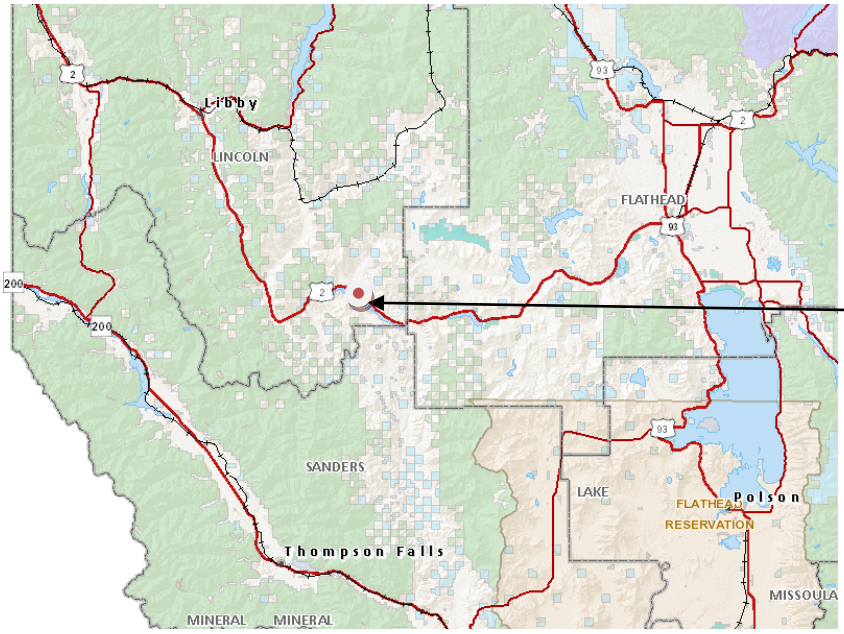
PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed state action:
Montana State Parks (MSP) proposes to install up to 34 campsite electrical pedestals at Logan State Park. The proposed project would include the necessary electrical infrastructure improvements, including a new transformer box and electrical panels to support the new pedestals. Additionally, the proposed project would include installing a second boat dock with up to 10 boat slips.

2. Agency authority for the proposed action:
23-2-101 Montana Code Annotated (MCA). MCA 23-1-110 and Administrative rule 12.6.601-606 guides public involvement and comment for improvements at state parks.

3. Anticipated Schedule:
Estimated Construction Commencement Date: Fall 2015
Estimated Completion Date: Spring 2016
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 25%

4. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township – included map):
Lincoln County, Section 3, T26N, R27W. The site is 40 miles east of Libby and 40 miles west of Kalispell on US Hwy 2. The site consists of just over 17 acres and has been owned by MSP since 1967.



5. Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

	Acres		Acres
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	0
Residential	0		
Industrial	0	(e) Productive:	
(existing shop area)		Irrigated cropland	0
(b) Open Space/	17	Dry cropland	0
Woodlands/Recreation		Forestry	0
(c) Wetlands/Riparian	0	Rangeland	0
Areas		Other	0

6. Permits, Funding & Overlapping Jurisdiction.

(a) Permits: permits would be filed a minimum of 2 weeks prior to project start. State electrical permit secured by contractor

(b) Funding: MSP $400,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:
Montana State Historical Preservation Office for archeological and cultural site protection.

Lincoln County Planning for Shoreline Protection.

7. Narrative summary of the proposed action:

Logan State Park is located between the communities of Libby and Kalispell on US Hwy 2. The park is situated on the north shore of Middle Thompson Lake, which is in the center of the 3,000 acre Thompson Chain of Lakes recreation complex (TCL). The park provides convenient, year-round access to high quality fishing and boating opportunities in northwest Montana, with a 37 site campground and boat launching amenities. Visitation to the park was estimated at 25,917 visits in 2014, while the surrounding TCL complex saw an estimated 69,260 visits.

Campground electrification
The preliminary plan for the proposed project would include the distribution of electricity to 22 campsites in the A Loop (west side of park), and 12 campsites in B-loop (east side). Each site would be equipped with a 50 amp RV pedestal for use by visitors. A distribution panel would be installed in the A Loop. Ground-disturbing activities would be required in order to bury the conduit, and some ground covering vegetation would be displaced. Effort would be taken to limit the effects on mature trees and all disturbed areas would be reseeded.

Currently, the park has 3 campsites with electrical pedestals which are reserved for visitors with special health needs. In a 2006 visitor survey, 48% of visitors responded

that adding hook-ups was an important service that should be considered for the site facilities in the future.

Campers occupying standard campsites frequently utilize generators resulting in high noise levels and exhaust fumes, which can create user conflicts. With the installation of additional electrical hookups, campers would be much less reliant on generators, thus decreasing noise levels and visitor complaints. Additionally, electrical service would be useful to anglers who need to recharge deep-cell batteries and for other camper equipment. By providing electrical service to all campsites, these sites become useable by visitors with special health needs, thus eliminating total reliance on three campsites for this service as is currently the case. This would be valuable as our population ages.

Prior to 2007, there were no state parks providing electrical service. After electric pedestals were installed at Cooney, Hell Creek, and Tongue River Reservoir State Parks, comment cards and comments given directly to park staff reflected that campers appreciated the campground improvements. Electrical service was added to West Shore State and Lake Marry Ronan state parks in 2009, and both of these parks experienced increase visitor satisfaction and increased shoulder-season visitation as a result. An increase in shoulder season visitation helps to increase maintenance budgets for park operations.

Addition of a dock and boat slips

A second key facet of this proposal is the replacement of the existing secondary dock, located at the west end of the park's day use area, with a 90'x6' floating dock with five to ten boat slips for use by park visitors. The primary dock at Logan is for launching and retrieval and cannot accommodate moorage due to heavy use. The secondary dock is in poor repair and of inadequate size to accommodate moorage. As a result, visitors who are camping in the park must trailer and remove their boats daily. Day use parking can be congested during peak visitation periods, thus making it difficult for campers to find parking each day. The installation of slips would save space for day users, and would provide the convenience of leaving a boat moored for multi-day visits.

8. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:

Alternative A: No Action – MSP does not install electrical hook-ups and boat slips.

Under this alternative, MSP would not make any of the proposed changes. Electrical service would remain at the three existing sites that currently provide it. Presumably, generator use would remain common. Boating facilities would remain unchanged, and congestion at the park's existing dock would remain high during peak use periods.

Alternative B: Proposed Action is for MSP to proceeds with installation of electric pedestals and boat slips.

The proposed enhancement to the campground at Logan State Park would provide additional electrical hook-up services to visitors, and provide much needed boat mooring opportunities.

The addition of electrical pedestals would improve the quality of the camping experience by reducing noise levels from the generators. These pedestals would eliminate the need to run generators to power camper comforts (A/C, TV, etc.), medical equipment, and recharge boating equipment.

9. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

The proposed dock feature of this project would utilize a floating structure that does not require permanent pilings for support. There would be a minor alteration near the shoreline for development of a level landing and pedestrian approach to the dock. MSP would comply with the Lincoln County Planning Office requirements for shoreline protection and erosion control.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

The analysis of the physical and human environment discussed on the following pages is limited to Alternative B, the proposed action. The reason for this is because based on the description of Alternative A, or the no action taken, MSP would not pursue the electrification of campsites or the addition of boat slips at Logan State park.

Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES Would the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		yes	1b
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				

1a. The proposed project would require a limited amount of disturbances to localized soils, but the project would not result in any changes to geologic substructures.

1b. The trenching that would be required for the proposed electrification of campground would disturb ground covering and related soils to an anticipated depth of 24". This would provide enough width and depth for the conduits and required fill materials. With the completion of the installation of the conduits, the disturbed areas would be reclaimed and reseeded with native vegetation to decrease the potential for erosion.

2. AIR **Would the proposed action result in:**	**IMPACT ***					
	Unknown	**None**	**Minor**	**Potentially Significant**	**Can Impact Be Mitigated**	**Comment Index**
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)			X		no	2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		no	2b
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. For P-R/D-J projects, would the project result in any discharge, which would conflict with federal or state air quality regulations? (Also see 2a.)		N/A				

2 a/b. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be created by construction equipment during trenching for the conduit and placement of the new electrical panels and pedestals. After the project's completion, the amount of dust and emissions would return to normal levels.

An expected benefit of the new pedestals is the likely reduction of personal generator use, which is anticipated to improve air quality in the immediate area.

3. WATER Would the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		yes	3b
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			X		no	3h
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. For P-R/D-J, would the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		N/A				
m. For P-R/D-J, would the project result in any discharge that would affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		N/A				

3b. The proposed project is not expected to detrimentally alter any surface drainage patterns. All disturbed areas would be reseeded with native vegetation to decrease the potential chance of different drainage patterns becoming established in the vicinity of the covered trenches.

3h. There is a risk increased surface water contamination due to boat moorage in the event of a fuel spill. The Park's emergency action plan would be implemented in such event.

4. VEGETATION Would the proposed action result in?	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		yes	4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				4c
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		yes	4e
f. For P-R/D-J, would the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		N/A				
g. Other:						

4a. Vegetation may be adversely impacted by the location of the conduit trenches for electrical pedestals and require the removal of those individual plants. Efforts would be taken to limit impacts by routing lines so as not to require removal of mature trees. Because of the planned underground design of the conduits, surface vegetation would be displaced, but reseeding the disturbed areas with native plants would mitigate these influences to the overall plant community.

4c. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage database revealed no occurrences of plant life that is designated a species of concern, threatened or endangered within the park.

4e. The installation of electrical pedestals would likely increase the possibility of noxious weeds becoming established within the park since there are noxious weeds already present. Mitigating actions would include reseeding with native species and monitoring of growth of noxious weeds at disturbed areas. Any noxious weeds discovered would be eradicated using Integrated Weed Management (IWM) methods identified in the Region 1 Noxious Weed and Exotic Vegetation Management Plan.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE Would the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				5b
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				5c
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				5f
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. For P-R/D-J, would the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and would the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		N/A				
i. For P-R/D-J, would the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		N/A				

5 b/c. Since construction is limited to the campground area, the impact to game and non-game species is not considered significant. Little forage and cover is available in the campground. Some smaller non-game species may be affected by the removal of trees if necessary. Overall, the impact to wildlife habitat would be minimal. Big game species are not likely to be affected in any way other than a temporary avoidance of the area during construction. Non-game species including small mammals and birds may be displaced to adjacent areas until the project is completed and reseeded areas have returned to pre-construction condition. Construction is scheduled to take place prior to the spring nesting and birthing period to avoid any possible disturbance.

5f. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage database revealed no occurrences of species that is designated a species of concern, threatened or endangered within the park.

B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Would the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		no	6a
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?			X		no	6b
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				

6 a/b. There would be a temporary increase in noise levels due to the construction equipment during the course of the project. Most of the work would take place during the off-season in the spring when visitation low. This would limit the inconvenience to park visitors. Distance between the project areas and nearest neighbors is such that it is anticipated that adjacent neighbors would minimally affected.

After the completion of the project, noise levels as a result of camper's personal generators is anticipated to be reduced with the addition of the electrical pedestals.

7. LAND USE Would the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X			7a
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				

7a. The proposed enhancement to the campground would not change the existing use of the area, but would provide the potential for the park to increase sustainability through camping generated revenues. Those campers wanting to use the pedestals would pay an additional $6 per night for the service beyond the normal $18 per night camping fee.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Would the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X		yes	8a
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, would any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)			X			8d

8 a/d. Chemical spraying maybe used to control the establishment and growth of noxious weeds in the proposed construction areas. Weed treatment would follow the guidelines of the Region 1 Weed Management Plan.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT **Would the proposed action result in:**	**IMPACT**					
	Unknown	**None**	**Minor**	**Potentially Significant**	**Can Impact Be Mitigated**	**Comment Index**
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?	X				no	9d
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				

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9d. The electrification of the campsites at Logan State Park may affect nearby private campgrounds negatively because campers may choose to stay at the park rather than at commercial facilities There are no competing boat slip marinas in the immediate area, so there would be no change to any existing commercial activity for boat slips. The closest private campground is 12 miles to the east of the park along US Hwy 2. That facility offers additional services that are not available at Logan State Park, such as laundry, sewer, and water hook-ups. University of Montana's Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research survey of traveler characteristics based from Summer 2006 statistics reflected that the same percentage of respondents stayed overnight at private campgrounds compared to public campgrounds when visiting counties in NW Montana. So, there appears to be no dominant preference by campers as to which type of campground they stay at.

Through the competitive bidding process for services for MSP, it is possible that a locally owned electrical and boat dock business could be chosen for the project, which would support the local economy and residents in the area.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES **Would the proposed action result in:**	**IMPACT**					
	Unknown	**None**	**Minor**	**Potentially Significant**	**Can Impact Be Mitigated**	**Comment Index**
a. Would the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Would the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Would the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?			X		no	10c
d. Would the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?			X		yes	10d
e. Define projected revenue sources						10e
f. Define projected maintenance costs.						10f

10c. The proposed action would require the establishment of new underground electrical conduit lines between existing or new electrical panels in order to provide electricity to individual campsite pedestals.

10d. The proposed installation of electric hookups for the campsites at Logan State Park is expected to increase the park's consumption of electricity. Conversely, gasoline consumption may drop as reliance on generators decreases.

10e. If Alternative B was completed, the park could expect an increase in revenue to offset the added cost of electricity and maintenance. The following chart shows the revenue estimates based on different levels of occupancy:

Total campsites at park = 37
Number of campsites proposed for electrification: 34
Season: ½ May, June July August, ½ September = 120 days

Potential revenue (% occupancy x #of days x # of campsites x utility fee with hook up)		Less cost of electricity per night *	Potential revenue per season
75%	(90 days)(34 sites)($6/night) = $18,360	-$ 9,180	$9,180
45%	(45 days)(34 sites)($6/night) = $9,180	-$ 4,590	$ 4,590

* Assume $3 cost of electricity per site, per night, first year

10f. Small increases to current maintenance costs are expected by the proposed improvements. Electrical components may need to be replaced on occasion. The potential for replacement due to damage by vehicles exists. Average annual routine maintenance costs are anticipated to be less than $500.00 per year.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Would the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?			X		yes	11a
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)			X		yes	11c
d. For P-R/D-J, would any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		X				

11a. The anticipated design for the electrification project would have all conduits underground with only the outlet pedestals and electrical panel visible. This design would minimize the effect on aesthetics at individual sites. The boat slips would alter the view of the lake, though currently a dock is located in the viewshed already.

11c. There would be a potential positive impact on tourism opportunities at the site. See *Appendix D* for the Tourism Report.

During construction some sections of the campground loop may need to be closed to campers for a limited amount of time when trenching and for site preparation. When required, MSP would work with the contractor to schedule this project so that park visitors are the least inconvenienced. Most work should occur during the late winter and early spring when visitation is low.

Once the project is completed, the effects on the quality of the recreation opportunities would be positive.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Would the proposed action result in:	IMPACT					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. For P-R/D-J, would the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)	X					12d

12 d. No impacts to cultural or historical resources are anticipated. All locations affected by the project's actions have had previous disturbance or have not been found to occur on any cultural or historic site.

State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) records have not indicated any known sensitive areas within the park. SHPO has recommended a cultural resource inventory be completed within the project area to ensure no culturally sensitive sites are impacted by the proposed improvements. MSP's cultural resource specialist would conduct the inventory prior to the start of the project.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE **Would the proposed action, considered as a whole:**	**IMPACT**					
	Unknown	**None**	**Minor**	**Potentially Significant**	**Can Impact Be Mitigated**	**Comment Index**
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts would be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				13e
f. For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		N/A				
g. For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		N/A				

13 e. No significant public controversy is expected. Improvements to the park would further the MSP goals to provide quality camping experiences by improving amenities and site controls that would protect human health, natural resources, and enhance recreational opportunities. The project would not create any cumulatively negative impacts that might affect the use of the park by visitors.

2. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Final plans and specifications for the project would be developed by the state appointed engineering consultant in conjunction with MSP engineering staff. MSP engineers would design other portions of the project. All state and federal permits would be obtained by MSP. Construction would be completed by a private contractor selected through the State's competitive bid process. Final inspection would be the responsibility of the MSP Design and Construction Bureau.

State pesticide use laws and regulations would be followed. Application records would be submitted to the Montana Department of Agriculture as required every five-years and these records would be available to state investigators upon request.

If the cultural resource inventory identifies any previously unknown historic sites in the path of the underground conduits, MSP would work with SHPO and the MSP's cultural resource specialist to discuss alternatives to the design of the conduit system to ensure culturally sensitive areas are not disturbed.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The proposed installation of electrical hookups in the campground at Logan State Park would meet the increasing needs of campers and boaters wanting to utilize electricity to charge batteries, and power camping comforts, such as air conditioning, refrigerator, and TVs. The addition of electricity at the campsites would also provide additional opportunities for disabled campers who may require electricity for medical reasons. MSP expects a decrease in nuisance noise produced by individual generators in use by campers.

Because of the scope of the proposed improvements, it is expected there would be a limited number of impacts to the human and physical environment. However, most of these influences, which were previously noted, are expected to be for only a relatively short duration of the construction period with no lasting negative effects on the local environment. For those actions requiring minor mitigation, such as the trenching of the electrical system for the hook-ups, efforts would be taken to landscape and reseed disturbed areas. The reseeding of the affected areas would decrease the chance of noxious weeds being established and would limit erosion. Additionally, MSP's cultural survey of the project would ensure previously unknown historic areas are not affected by any ground disturbance.

Since there have been no major improvements to the campground or facilities in many years, this project purpose is to upgrade facilities and improve camping and boating opportunities. Current facilities are small and with limited capacity and do not adequately protect park resources. The project improvements are expected to mitigate resource impacts, improve camper satisfaction. This project also complies with the long range goals of MMSP to raise State Park standards and meets the Parks Program outcome of protection and enhancement of resources.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public involvement:

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternatives:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: *Helena Independent Record*, *Daily Interlake* and the *Western news*
- One state-wide news release.
- Public notice on the Montana State Parks web page: *http://MSP.mt.gov*.

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having limited impacts, many of which can be mitigated

2. Duration of comment period:

The public comment period will extend for 30 days following the publication of the second legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments would be accepted until 5:00 p.m., date , 2015 and can be mailed to the address below:

Logan State Park Campground Improvement Project
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region One Headquarters
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Or email comments to: dbennetts@mt.gov

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)?
If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Based on the criteria provided by MEPA Model Rule III to assess if an EIS is required, this environmental review revealed no significant negative impacts would be created from the proposed action. Therefore, an EIS is not necessary and an EA is the appropriate level of analysis

2. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:

Dave Bennetts
Park Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park
490 n. Meridian Road

David Landstrom
Regional Park Manager
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Park
490 N. Meridian Road

Kalispell, MT 59901
406-751-4590

Kalispell, MT 59901
406-751-4574

3. List of agencies or offices consulted during preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Parks Division
- Wildlife Division
- Fisheries Division
- Design & Construction Bureau
- Legal Bureau

Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism
Montana Natural Heritage Program – Natural Resources Information System (NRIS)
University of Montana – Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research

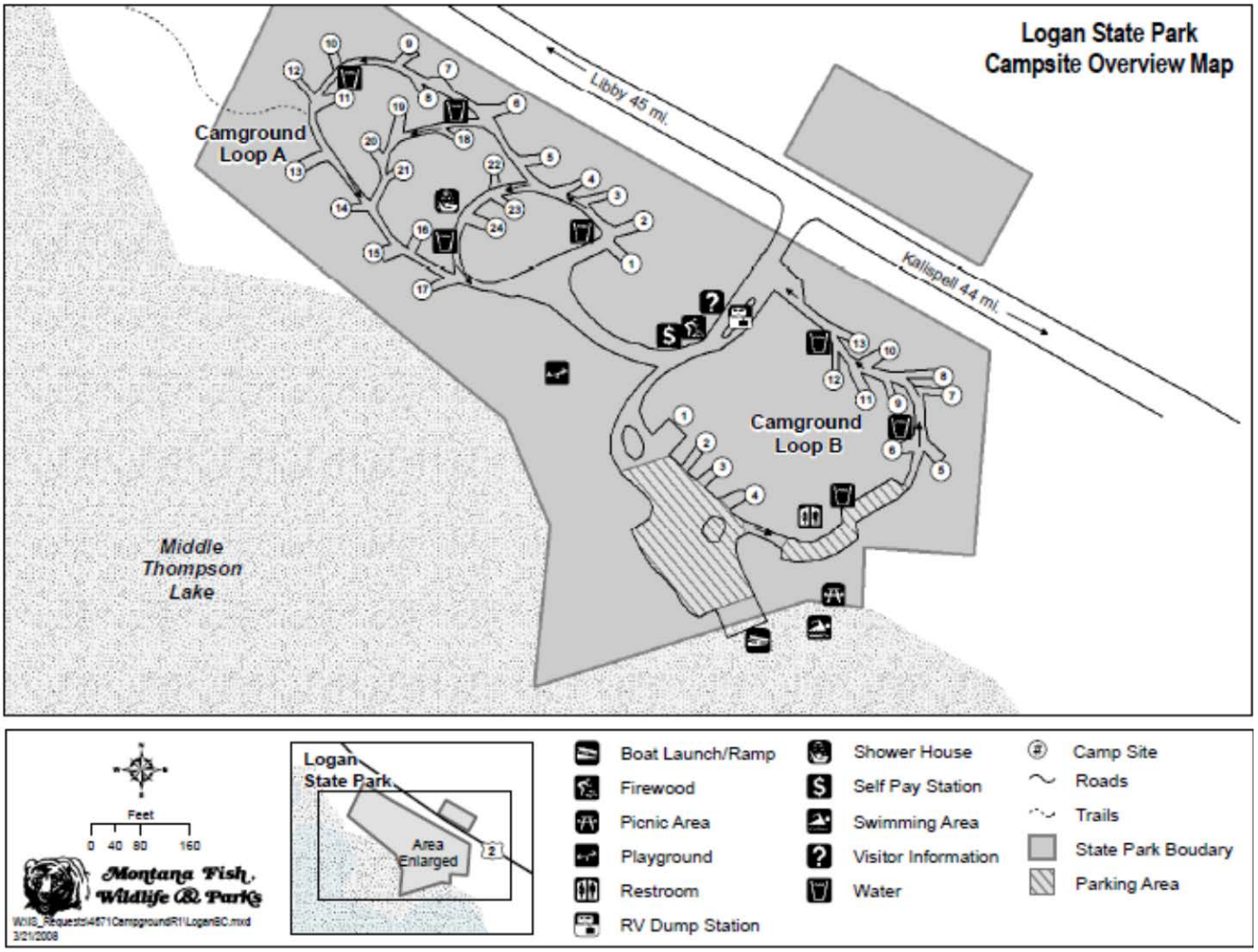
APPENDICES

A. Logan State Park Site Map
B. Preliminary Electrification And Boat Slip Concept Plan
C. Department of Commerce - Tourism Report
D. Historic Preservation Compliance.
E. HB 495 Project Qualification Checklist

APPENDIX A

Logan State Park Map

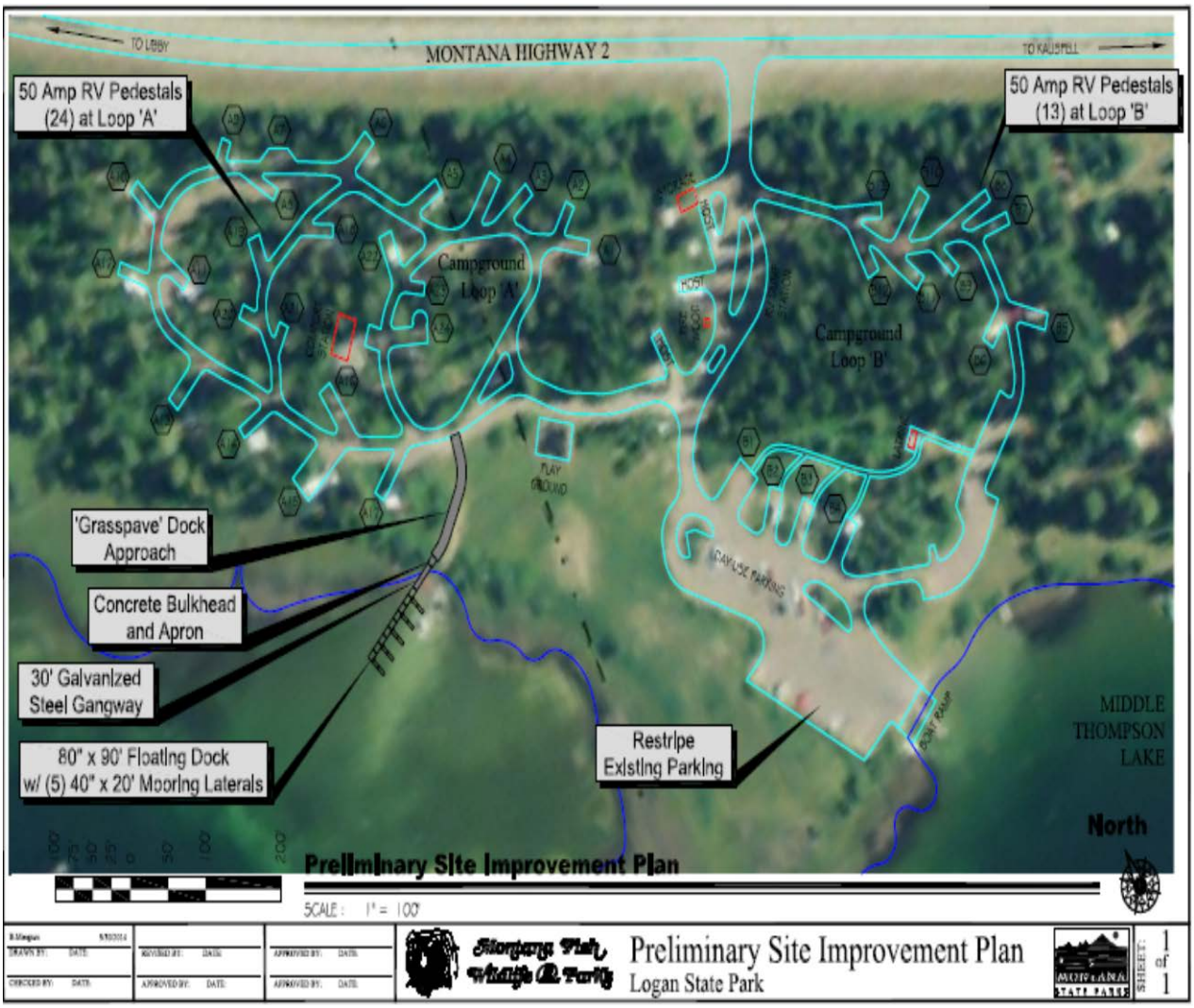
Alternative B Site Map



APPENDIX B

Logan State Park Improvement Plan

Alternative B Site Plan



APPENDIX C

TOURISM REPORT

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) & MCA 23-1-110

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by MCA 23-1-110 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Carol Crockett, Grants Manager
Montana Office of Tourism-Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

Project Name: Logan State Park Improvement Project

Project Description: The proposed project consist of the following:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to install up to 34 campsite electrical pedestals at Logan State Park. The proposed project would include the necessary electrical infrastructure improvements, such as a new transformer box and electrical panels to support the new pedestals. Additionally, the proposed project would include installing 5-10 boat slips.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?
   NO **YES** If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, this project has the potential to positively impact the tourism and recreation industry economy if properly maintained. We are assuming the agency has determined it has necessary funding for the on-going operations and maintenance once this project is complete.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?
   NO **YES** If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to improve quality and quantity of tourism and recreational opportunities if properly maintained. We are assuming the agency has determined it has necessary funding for the on-going operations and maintenance once this project is complete.

Signature Carol Crockett, Grants Manager Date Oct. 30, 2014

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APPENDIX D
Historic Preservation Compliance

A heritage resource survey was conducted of Logan State Park in 1983. No historic or archaeological sites were recorded. The heritage survey complies with the requirements of the Montana Antiquities Act (22-3-421 to 22-3-442) and with FWPs ARM rules (12.8.501 to 12.8.10). In the unlikely event that sites are inadvertently identified during project construction and cannot be avoided, in accordance with MCA 22-3-430, mitigation measures will be proposed.

APPENDIX E
HB 495
Project Qualification Checklist

Date: 7/22/2015 **Person Reviewing:** David Landstrom

Project Location: Logan State Park, located in Lincoln County, Section 3, T26N, R27W. The site is approx. 40 miles east of Libby and 40 miles west of Kalispell on US Hwy 2. .

Description of Proposed Work: Montana State Parks (MSP), a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, is proposing to complete facility improvements at Logan State Park. The proposed improvements consist of: 1) Replacement of a dock with a longer dock, including boat slips. 2) Installation of electrical service at 34 campsites.

The following checklist is intended to be a guide for determining whether a proposed development or improvement is of enough significance to fall under 23-1-110 rules. (Please place an X in box for all that apply and comment as necessary.)

[ ] A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments*: No*

[ ] B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments*: No*

[ ] C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments*: No*

[ ] D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments*: No.*

[ ] E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments*: No.*

[X] F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments*: The proposed dock would be a floating structure. Concrete weights would be required as anchors.*

[ ] G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry-quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?
Comments*: No.*

[ ] H. Any new above ground utility lines?
Comments*: No.*

[ ] I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites?
Comments*: No*

[ ] J Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern, including effects of a series of individual projects?
Comments*: No*

If any of the above are checked, 23-1-110 MCA rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance.